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Director of
Central
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National Intelligence Daily

*Wednesday
21 February 1979*

State Dept. review completed

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Contents

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The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the Daily, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

USSR-US

The US Embassy in Moscow reports that the USSR yesterday formally proposed that the next round of bilateral talks on conventional arms transfers commence in Helsinki on 20 March. Chief Soviet negotiator Mendelevich asked for an early answer and suggested that the round be approximately four weeks long in order to permit "more substantive discussions"; he clearly favored preliminary discussions at the expert level in Moscow earlier in March. The Embassy adds that Mendelevich indicated his side did not want to make "a big political thing" out of the chief stumbling block at the most recent bilateral round in Mexico City, the status of the working group on prospects for curbing arms transfers to regions. Mendelevich suggested that additional working groups could be established as could sub-groups dealing with certain specific regions.

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Cuba-USSR

Red Star has announced that Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro and a military delegation will arrive in Moscow today for an official visit at the invitation of Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov. The US Interests Section in Havana commented yesterday that discussions probably will focus on bilateral military collaboration in 1979 and during the next (1981-86) Five-Year-Plan period. It added that, given the situations in Vietnam and Rhodesia, more immediate operational questions might well be discussed.

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COMMENT: Angola and Ethiopia are other likely discussion topics. We do not believe that at this point Havana and Moscow would be discussing their collaboration plans for the 1981-86 period.

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Cuba

The US Interests Section in Havana reports that an edition of the official magazine of the Cuban armed forces that it received on 15 February carries a seven-page article entitled "These Are the MIG-23s." The article includes numerous articles of varying quality, including clear shots of bomb racks. According to the Interests Section, one photo shows a line-up of nine MIG-23s, of which at least three and possibly as many as eight may be ground attack versions.

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Saudi Arabia - Lebanon

The US Embassy in Jidda reports that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud informed Ambassador West on Sunday that Saudi Arabia has decided to withdraw its contingent from the Arab Deterrent Force when the current agreement for its presence in Lebanon expires at the end of April. Saud said Saudi troops have already sustained casualties in Lebanon and that his government cannot give Lebanon an open-ended commitment when the Lebanese seem unwilling to help themselves and are doing nothing to take over from the ADF.

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Tanzania-Uganda

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[redacted] the Ugandan military situation is deteriorating rapidly, with numerous desertions and units out of ammunition. [redacted] civilians have fled from two key towns in the Tanzanian line of march. [redacted]

[redacted] the Tanzanian advance is being slowed by logistics problems; the Tanzanians repulsed Ugandan counterattacks on Saturday and Monday.

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EC-China

The US Embassy in Brussels comments that the current visit of EC Commission President Jenkins to China gives further high-level visibility to steadily improving EC-China relations. A Commission spokesman told the press on Monday that Jenkins would not be engaged in trade negotiations but would be interested in learning about China's modernization plans and its expectations for trade with Western Europe. The spokesman added that Jenkins would not be raising any political issues with China's leaders. [redacted]

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